

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the claims to simply overcome the objections to the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Examiner states that it is unclear as to what constitutes “balanced energy” because neither the “current section” nor the “voltage section” contain a power source.

Applicant respectfully disagrees, claim 1 recites “a current section comprising inductors and configured to produce a boosted output voltage from **a voltage source** when the current section is operated in a forward direction.” Thus, claim 1 recites a power source. Furthermore, it is well known in the art that energy may become imbalanced between a primary and secondary side of a power converter when a load is removed from the secondary side. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 14, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zhu et al. (U.S. App. No. 2003/0002304). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 1, Zhu et al. fail to show, teach, or suggest a plurality of balancing switches configured to balance energy between a current section and a voltage section when a power conversion circuit is not driving a load and when operated in a forward direction.

As best understood by Applicant, Zhu et al. disclose a bidirectional DC/DC converter that includes a primary circuit (current section) that has primary switches, a transformer, and a secondary circuit (voltage section) that has secondary switches. When operating in boost mode (forward direction), the primary switches are switched in a manner to generate an AC voltage on a primary side of the transformer, which induces an AC voltage on a secondary side of the transformer. The secondary switches are controlled to rectify the AC voltage in order to provide a DC voltage at an output of the secondary circuit. Due to leakage inductance of the transformer, a high voltage overshoot is generated across the primary switches when they turn off. To minimize the overshoot, the secondary switches are controlled to short secondary circuit for a calibratable period when the primary switches transition.

Applicant can find no mention of a plurality of balancing switches configured to balance energy between a current section and a voltage section when a power conversion circuit is **not driving a load** and when operated in a forward direction.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 22 are allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

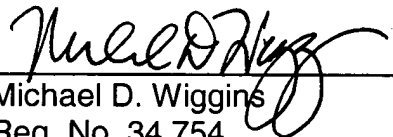
Claims 2-13, 15-21, and 23-32 each ultimately depend on claim 1, 14, and 22, respectively, and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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